

throughout Wisconsin, especially those who shared his love for the outdoors and sought to protect it. Additionally, in 2007, he was the inspiration for the establishment of the Oscar and Rosalie Mayer fund for Pediatric Care at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia.

Oscar Mayer's work and charity were widely recognized by his community. He received Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1977, Beloit College in 1978, and later from Edgewood College in Madison in 1991. In 1990, Mr. Mayer became one of the first inductees into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame.

Oscar Mayer's devotion to his family, company, its employees, the state of Wisconsin and specifically the city of Madison has left a lasting impression. I join Rep. KINGSTON and the greater Madison community in honoring his life's work and loving spirit.

MARY MORRIS LAWRENCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mary Morris Lawrence. As a premier photographer, trailblazer and free spirit, she helped shatter the glass ceiling for female professionals by becoming one of the first female

photojournalists ever hired by New York's Associated Press in November of 1936. Mary was also a vibrant inspiration to her family and friends as wife, mother and mentor. She passed away in her Oakland, California home on August 12, 2009, at the age of 95.

Over the span of her globe-trotting career, Mary was columnist and Hollywood photographer for New York's progressive tabloid PM, photojournalist for Look Magazine, and creator of a variety of award-winning projects. Her photo of composer Louis Hart even became a U.S. postage stamp.

Mary Morris Lawrence was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 27, 1914. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1936, and often attributed her distinct ambitions, creative prowess and "rebellious ideas" to the time she spent there. In the early years, colleagues described Mary as a hard worker with a knack for using her wit to gain access to great shots and poignant moments with her small Rolleiflex camera.

Mary spent six years in Hollywood during her first marriage with still photographer Ralph Steiner, with whom she had a daughter, Antonia Steiner. Her self-described aggressive nature and creative spirit helped her commingle with movie stars. Sunday magazine pieces for PM featured Mary's trademark, sleek, black-and-white portraits of silver screen luminaries. Her work included shots of Sophia Loren, Gene Kelly, Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart and many others.

Afterward, Mary returned to New York as a magazine freelancer, producing work for Life, Mademoiselle and other publications. She also

started an advertising business out of a Midtown brownstone.

In 1963, she married Harold Lawrence, producer for Mercury Records, and subsequently General Manager of the London Symphony Orchestra and Manager of the New York Philharmonic. The family settled in Oakland when Harold Lawrence was named president and General Manager of the Oakland East Bay Symphony in 1977.

Mary volunteered locally for the League of Women Voters, ERA, Oakland Potluck and Neighborhood Newsletter Task Force. She continued her work, photographing music legends like Michael Tilson Thomas and Calvin Simmons. She also became a creative partner in her husband's film documentaries, later devoting her photographic skills to occasional projects for friends.

Mary Morris Lawrence's tenacious zest for life will inspire generations to come. In her life she overcame many obstacles, including surviving a brain tumor in her fifties.

She recently celebrated her 95th birthday with friends at a belly-dancing restaurant, and undoubtedly, her convivial spirit will continue to be a powerful gift to the people she cherished most. She will be remembered for her unparalleled passion, wit and bravery.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors an incredible and beloved human being, Mary Morris Lawrence. We extend our deepest condolences to Mary's husband, daughter, goddaughter, family and friends. May her soul rest in peace.